



General	115
Buoyage System	115
Currency	115
Firing Areas	115
Government	115
Holidays	115
Industries	115
Languages	115
Pollution	116
Regulations	116
Time Zone	116
U.S. Embassy	116

General

Israel is located in the Middle East, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Egypt and Lebanon.

The climate is primarily temperate although, it is hot and dry in S and E areas.

The terrain is low coastal plains with central mountains and the Negev desert in the S.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official currency is the new Israeli shekel (NIS), consisting of 100 new agorot.

Firing Areas

Firing and bombing practices may take place off the coast of Israel in the exercise areas best seen on the chart.

Vessels should approach with caution and avoid crossing firing danger areas. Such danger areas, dates and hours of these practices are broadcast by Haifa Radio (4XO) at least 24 hours in advance and repeated every 4 hours until the end of the practice.

Though every effort will be made to broadcast the navigational warnings related to firing practices at least 24 hours in advance, mariners are warned that a firing practice may take place at short notice.

Mariners are requested to listen to Haifa Radio at the time of the last transmission of warnings prior to their departure from an Israeli port.

Government

Israel is an independent sovereign republic. The capital is Jerusalem (not recognized by U.S.).

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Passover; Independence Day; May 1, Labor Day; Pentecost; Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashana); Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement); and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Industries

The main industries include food processing, diamond cutting and polishing, textiles and apparel, chemicals, metal products, and military and electrical equipment.

Languages

The languages of the country are Hebrew (official), Arabic, and English.

Pollution

In order to prevent the import of non-native aquatic organisms into the waters of the ports of Israel from ships' ballast water discharges, all ships destined for Israeli ports must exchange any ballast water that has not been taken on in open ocean.

The best method of protecting harbor waters from foreign organisms that may exist in the ballast water collected in foreign harbors and near shore areas is for the ballast water to be exchanged in open ocean, beyond any continental shelf or fresh water current effect.

For vessels calling at Israeli Mediterranean ports, ballast exchange must be carried out in the Atlantic Ocean when practicable.

Vessels failing to comply with the above procedure will not be permitted to pump out their ballast water during their stay in the port or while navigating along the coast of Israel.

A record of the location, date, and time of the ballast water exchange should be entered in the ship's log book, or in other suitable documentation, such as an official ballast water record book. Masters of vessels will be requested to provide ship's inspectors (pilots) with a completed ballast water exchange report.

From 20 February 1997, entry to the territorial waters of Israel by oil tankers will be permitted only by those holding an insurance policy covering civil liability for oil pollution damage issued by their flag state.

Regulations

Normal international courtesies, such as flying the flag of Israel at the foremast, should be carefully observed while in the waters and ports of Israel. U.S. Navy ships will comply with U.S. Navy Regulations and/or appropriate instructions.

Navigation is prohibited within the territorial waters of Israel and Lebanon between the parallels of 33°05.72'N, and 33°15.00'N.

Vessels bound for Israeli ports are required to report the following information through Haifa Coast Radio to the Israeli Ministry of Transport (IMOT) when 100 miles off the Israeli coast (50 miles for small craft), and again when 50 miles off the Israeli coast:

1. Vessel name.
2. Call sign.
3. Flag and port of registration.

4. IMO number.
5. MMSI.
6. Year built.
7. DWT.
8. Ship type and cargo on board.
9. Number of crew and passengers.
10. Agent's name.
11. Last and previous port of call and dates of departure.
12. Port of destination.
13. Position, course, and speed.
14. ETA.

All vessels approaching the Israeli coast may also establish direct contact with the Israeli navy on VHF channel 16; however, this is not a substitute for the required report sent through Haifa Coast Radio.

Vessels which do not report according to the above IMOT procedures will not be allowed to enter any Israeli port. The IMO number and MMSI are mandatory and must be included in the above report.

All vessels entering and leaving Israeli ports and proceeding to them must do so via the recommended route and approach channels which may best be seen on the chart.

Within territorial waters, all vessels are forbidden to transmit by radiotelephone or radiotelegraph except in accordance with the following conditions:

1. Carry out communications with or through an Israeli coastal radio station on its authorized frequency of 26.96 MHz.
2. Use the minimum power possible.
3. Do not cause interference with other authorized stations.
4. Stop transmitting when requested by Israeli coastal stations.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is BRAVO (-2).

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at 71 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv.

The mailing address is PSC 98, Unit 7228, Tel Aviv; APO AE 09830.